

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. No changes in the claims are presented herein.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. **(Previously Presented)** A method for coding phonetic information, the method comprising the steps of:

identifying phonetic features of a character sequence; and

representing the identified phonetic features as a bit string.

2. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to Claim 1, wherein the character sequence is a name.

3. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to Claim 1, wherein the bit string has a length of 32 bits.

4. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to Claim 3, further comprising the step of replacing at least one group of characters, in the character sequence with a corresponding number of normalized character groups having the same or a similar sound when spoken but a different spelling.

5. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to Claim 4, further comprising the steps of:

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(590.027)

covering the beginning portion of the character sequence with a first normalized character group;

covering the middle portion of the character sequence with one or more of said normalized character groups;

and covering the end portion of the character sequence with one of said normalized character groups.

**6. (Previously Presented)** The method according to Claim 5, further comprising the step of extracting said normalized character groups from particular tables providing a mapping between the character sequence groups and said normalized character groups by a respective provision of a cross-reference in said table.

**7. (Previously Presented)** The method according to Claim 6, further comprising the step of empirically founding said tables comprising groups of the character sequences.

**8. (Previously Presented)** The method according to Claim 7, further comprising the step of spelling actual language in use which reflect the specific phonetics.

**9. (Previously Presented)** The method according to Claim 5, further comprising the step of decreasing a coding precision with a distance from the beginning of the character sequence.

**10. (Previously Presented)** The method according to Claim 9, further comprising the step of coding a first character with five (5) bits.

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11. (Previously Presented) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by said machine to perform method steps for coding phonetic information, said method comprising the steps of:

identifying phonetic features of a character sequence, wherein the character sequence is a name;

representing the identified phonetic features as a bit string;

replacing at least one group of characters, in the character sequence, with a corresponding number of normalized character groups having the same or similar sound when spoken with a different spelling;

covering the beginning portion of the character sequence with a first normalized character group;

covering the middle portion of the character sequence with one or more of said normalized character groups;

covering the end portion of the character sequence with one of said normalized character groups;

extracting said normalized character groups from particular tables providing a mapping between the character sequence and said normalized character groups by a respective provision of a cross-reference in said table;

empirically founding said tables comprising groups of character sequences;

spelling actual language in use which reflect the specific phonetics;  
decreasing a representative precision with a distance from the beginning of said  
original character sequence;  
representing the first character of the character sequence with a 5-bit bit string.

**12. (Previously Presented)** A program storage device readable by machine,  
tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform  
method steps for providing symbol insertion in accordance with Claim 11, wherein a bit  
string related to said phonetic information has a length of 32 bits.

**13. (Currently Amended)** An apparatus for coding phonetic information, the  
apparatus comprising:

a coder which codes phonetic information about a character sequence in a bit  
stream string;

a deriver which derives said phonetic information from names;  
a replacer which replaces at least one group of characters, in the character  
sequence, with a corresponding number of normalized character groups having the same  
or a similar sound when spoken but a different spelling;

a coverer which covers the beginning portion of the character sequence with a  
first normalized character group;

a second coverer which covers the middle portion of the character sequence

with one or more of said normalized character groups;

a third coverer which covers the end portion of the character sequence with one of said normalized character groups;

an extractor which extracts said normalized character groups from particular tables providing a mapping between the character sequence groups and said normalized character groups by a respective provision of a cross-reference in said table;

a founder which empirically sounds said tables comprising groups of the character sequences;

a speller which spells actual language in use which reflects the specific phonetics;

a decreaser which decreases a coding precision with a distance from the beginning of said original character sequence;

a second coder which codes the first character of the character sequence with a 5-bit bit string.